

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-5 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 6-7 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Kittson in view of Kurihara. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Kittson relates to a field of reinforcement for engineering works. However, Kittson discloses a reinforcing grid other than a reinforcing strip disclosed by the present invention. The reinforcing grid of Kittson is just widely spread in a soil body, and serves to prevent the soil body from falling down. On the other hand, the reinforcing strip of the present invention is configured such that the front end of the reinforcing strip is anchored to a front block (or a panel) forming an earth wall to support the front block (or the panel), and the other parts

of the reinforcing strip are spread on a reinforced earth and coated again with the reinforced earth. Then, the reinforcing earth coating the other parts of the reinforcing strip is hardened, when the earth wall is constructed, and thus serves to facilitate the firm construction of the reinforced earth wall.

In the present invention, the reason why a folding groove is formed in the central portion of the reinforcing strip in the lengthwise direction is that the reinforcing strip is folded into halves such that the reinforcing strip can be easily inserted into a reinforcing strip insertion groove formed on the front block (or the panel) of the earth wall. However, the reinforcing grid of Kittson does not need to be folded as the reinforcing strip of the present invention.

Kurihara relates to a radio wave absorber, which is irrelevant to the reinforcing strip for engineering works of the present invention. A base material in Kurihara is folded so that the base material serves as a hinge to form the desired shape of the radio wave absorber having an internal space.

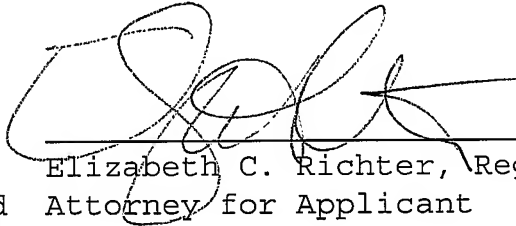
Moreover, Kurihara differs from the present invention in that the base material is folded in the widthwise direction other than the lengthwise direction.

However, there is no technical motive or object to combine the folding portion disclosed by Kurihara with the reinforcing grid of Kittson, as they relate to completely different subjects, and thus the present invention is not obvious.

Furthermore, the combination of the technique of Kurihara with the reinforcing grid of Kittson would not lead to the present invention, as neither reference teaches or suggests a lengthwise folding groove as claimed in claims 6-7 of the present invention.

The features of claims 6-7 are not taught or suggested by the cited references, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

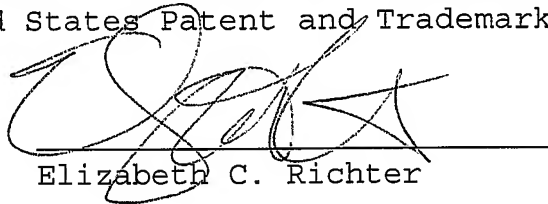
Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 20, 2008.



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